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MEDINA COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MEDINA COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
HONDO, TEXAS 78861

November 7, 2003

Ms. Victoria Rutson  
Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and  
Administration Surface Transportation Board  
Washington D.C. 20423

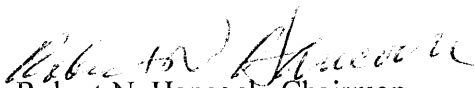
Re: Preliminary Cultural Resources Assessment Report

Dear Ms. Rutson,

Thank you for your correspondence describing the above referenced report. This letter serves as comment on the proposed undertaking from the Medina County Historical Commission.

The Medina County Historical Commission has a continuing commitment to the preservation, study, and recognition of the county's cultural heritage. The Commission is aware of the plans of Vulcan Materials to construct a railroad through the Quihi area related to its proposed quarrying activities in that part of Medina County. Quihi is a highly important historic area of Medina County, representing a settlement established in 1846, and is marked by the presence of numerous homes and buildings of that period. There are also important prehistoric archaeological sites, as old as 10,000 years, in the area. The Commission urges the Surface Transportation Board to use all proper review procedures during its consideration of the Vulcan applications for its railways and proposed alternative routes. This will involve detailed consultation with the Texas Historical Commission, charged with the implementation of Section 106 regulations related to cultural resources. The Commission will monitor the process and will receive the comments of concerned citizens of the Quihi area during all phases of cultural resource studies to this project.

Regards,

  
Robert N. Hancock, Chairman  
Medina County Historical Commission